



IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING



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Idaho Board of Nursing Emergency Guidelines Regarding Chloroquine, Hydroxychloroquine, and Azithromycin

The State of Idaho is currently under an Extreme Emergency Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The drugs chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and azithromycin are thought to be potentially helpful in the treatment of COVID-19. These drugs are also used in the treatment of other conditions unrelated to COVID-19.

Currently, both nationally and in Idaho, some prescribers have begun writing prescriptions for these drugs for family, friends, coworkers, and even themselves, in anticipation of COVID-19 related illness. This is leading to a shortage of these drugs both for patients prescribed the drugs for issues unrelated to COVID-19 and potentially to individuals suffering from the effects of COVID-19.

In response to this issue, the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy has promulgated Temporary Rule 704 addressing medication limitations. This rule seeks to ensure that these drugs are dispensed only to individuals currently in need of them. The rule is in effect as of March 26, 2020.

The Idaho Board of Nursing licensees with prescriptive authority should conform their prescribing practices to align with Temporary Rule 704.

Rule 704. Medication Limitations.

01. No prescription for chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine may be dispensed unless all of the following apply:

- a. The prescription bears a written diagnosis from the prescriber consistent with the evidence for its use;***
- b. The prescription is limited to no more than a fourteen (14) day supply; and***
- c. No refills may be permitted unless a new prescription is furnished.***
- d. The provisions of subsections b and c do not apply if the patient was previously established on the medication prior to the effective date of this rule.***

02. No prescription for oral azithromycin may be dispensed unless all of the following apply:

- a. The prescription bears a written diagnosis from the prescriber consistent with the evidence for its use;***
- b. The prescription is limited to no more than a five (5) day supply; and***
- c. No refills may be permitted***
- d. The provisions of subsections b and c do not apply if the patient was previously established on the medication prior to the effective date of this rule.***

(3/26/2020)

***THE MISSION OF THE IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING IS TO REGULATE NURSING PRACTICE AND
EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE***